April 12, 1927

Dr. M. Allen Starr
5 West 54th Street
New York City

My dear Dr. Starr:

Mr. Anderson is to be here tomorrow for York & Sawyer and he will take up with us several of the minor matters which appear as alternatives in the bids. Among them will be the more important one concerning the back of the two wings.

Fritz and myself have both felt that it would be well to leave this stucco, not so much because of the reduction in the price as because this has a psychological value. It is a notification to the world in general that we expect at some time to add further wings to the Library and that the buildings to be erected henceforth would be upon that unit system which would allow for expansion without architectural incongruity. Mr. Fletcher, however, feels, and quite strongly, that since it would only cost four thousand dollars to cover the back with marble, it would be better to do that, particularly as it would in all probability be twenty or twenty-five years before we would be under the necessity of extending these wings for the sake of room. I feel that your decision should be the deciding one in the matter and I would be grateful if you would wire your view on the matter to us that we might have it before us while Mr. Anderson is here. There will be time to do this if you receive this letter before noon on Wednesday, as I hope you may.

Ever cordially yours,

M/p